

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/752,284

Examiner

Quang N. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

ZHU ET AL.

Art Unit

2141

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/19/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,6-8,11-13 and 16-18.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The terminal disclaimer filed on 07/19/2004 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of prior Patent No. US 6,567,813 B1 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

2. Claims 1-3, 6-8, 11-13 and 16-18 are allowed.

3. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

In interpreting the claims, in light of the specification and the applicant's arguments filed on 07/19/2004, the Examiner finds the claimed invention to be patentably distinct from the prior art of record.

~~Murphy (US 6,185,695) teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Murphy~~
teaches a system and method for facilitating transparent failovers from a primary server to a secondary server during accesses to a remote object in a distributed system environment, wherein each node has one or more domains (*i.e., assigning at least one of said sub-functions to each of a plurality of logical processes*) (C3: L54-62) and objects can be invoked by a thread within a domain in another node and object request broker "ORB" handles remote procedure calls for objects requested in the same node as the requesting application, or in a different node of different domains (*i.e.,*

associating a respective management process with each of said plurality of logical processes and communicating between said logical processes using said respective management process) (C4: L10-14 and 22-30).

However, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest individually or in combination that a method and system of ***distributed collaborative computing*** over a computer network, comprising ***partitioning a collaboration function into sub-functions***; assigning at least one said sub-function to each of a plurality of logical processes; associating a respective management process with each of said plurality of logical processes and communicating between said logical processes using said respective management process; ***communicating between said logical processes using said respective management processes and monitoring said respective management processes with a single supervisor process wherein said communicating employs a secure protocol on a dedicated network.***

The Examiner finds the Applicant's arguments to be persuasive. The applicant argued in substance that the prior art of record failed to teach a method and system, wherein "***partitioning a collaboration function into sub-functions ...***" (Remarks, page 11, paragraphs 4-6) in order to replicate the conference information on more than one server computer to eliminate the single point of failure limitation of prior art systems (see also Specification, page 4, paragraph [0007]).


Art Unit: 2141

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quang N. Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-8190.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's SPE, Rupal Dharia, can be reached at (703) 305-4003. The fax phone number for the organization is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3800/4700.


RUPAL DHARIA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

Quang N. Nguyen

Examiner


Paul Kang

Primary Examiner